

# RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY COLLECTIONS

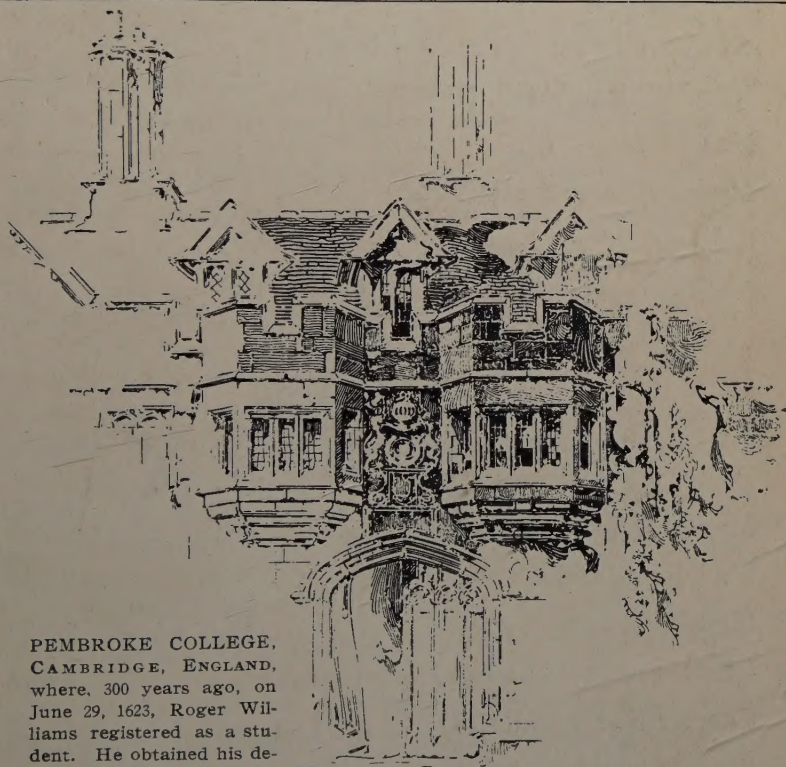
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PEMBROKE COLLEGE,  
CAMBRIDGE, ENGLAND,  
where, 300 years ago, on  
June 29, 1623, Roger Wil-  
liams registered as a stu-  
dent. He obtained his de-  
gree in 1626. Pembroke  
Hall, Brown University  
commemorates this fact by  
its name.

*Pembroke College*  
Chapel & Entrance

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badly lodged in an infected air, how could one remain in good health?

I had not been seasick, but loneliness held me strongly, I should be very embarrassed to express at what point I was impressed by it. The Count of Rochambeau disembarked at once, accompanied by a few persons. Arriving at the city, he was very surprised; almost not a soul there, the stores closed, and the inhabitants very prejudiced against our country, would have I believe, preferred at that time rather see their enemies than their allies. We frightened them and our General had all the difficulty in the world, to find a lodging.

At last with the help of some good Americans, everything was fixed all right.

The first care of the Count of Rochambeau was to look for a place to establish a camp for the army which was in the greatest need of landing, so after a rapid reconnoitering, he pitched his camp, at the foot and in front of the city. Newport being the only city on the Island and the Capitol of the State of R. I.

The troops landed on the 14th and 15th they occupied camp in the following order Bourbonnais and Deux-Ponts, Soissonnais and Saintonge, all on the same line. The artillery covered the Head Quarters, and Lauzun's legion was posted ahead on a good position, which enabled it to discover anything approaching the coast. Its camp was at 1 mile from the army.

Hardly two days of rest had elapsed when we had to entrench ourselves and reinforce our camp, especially at the point where we could foresee an attack of the enemy, fortify the places where we thought they could try to land. Meanwhile we were landing our artillery.

Then we saw about twenty sails heading for the Island. We did not hesitate long to detect the enemy. That caused a considerable alarm, not yet being in a state of defense. We had landed only a few field guns. We carried them immediately to the places where we feared a landing. Our vessels were brought to bear, in the fear that the English would try to force the channel. They did not dare to undertake it, and after hav-



ing remained a few days to examine us, they decided to retire.

We proceeded then quietly to the armament of the coasts and to build some redoubts. Our artillery<sup>1</sup> being all disembarked, we placed it at points of vantage.

The enemy appeared again from time to time during the summer, but as we were in a position to receive them, we desired to see effort on their part, rather than menace only.— We felt at the beginning of our arrival in Newport the difficulty of living in a country where the language is an obstacle. We were in want of everything. No store, no market no garden. The inhabitants were fleeing from us, the houses where the people were living seemed to us to be deprived of all resources. If the country was cultivated as it should be, it ought to supply many things.— The Island of R. I. may be about 15 miles long and 5 to 6 wide the soil is very good, the fields in culture were splendid though small in quantity. There were very few woods on the Island because when the English troops evacuated<sup>2</sup> they had destroyed almost all of it, according to the report of some truthful inhabitants. This island was an enchanted resort before the war, everything was prosperous without the least care, the soil received anything and returned it with big interest to the happy inhabitants. The air is pure, in fact it was a delicious resort. The Southerners used to come there in crowds in order to recuperate their health that the heat of the south had disturbed. Everywhere could be seen evidences of what Nature had lavished for the enjoyment and use of the inhabitants.

The roadstead of Newport is superb, very large and a very safe moorage for the vessels. A good variety of fishes all excel-

It must be noticed that the principal citizens, either by fear or pleasure of seeing us, had on the very evening of our arrival a big illumination, the effect of which was beautiful from the harbor. On the following morning we returned their politeness by a salute of 13 cannon-shots.

<sup>1</sup>Our artillery was composed of

12 guns of 24	2 howitzers of 8
8 " " 16	8 " " 6
8 " " 12	6 mortars " 12
16 " " 4	4 " " 8

<sup>2</sup>They had evacuated the Island 10 months before, when M. le Comte Destaing came into the neighborhood.

lent may be found there. Cod abound as well as different kinds of fishes known in Europe.

The roadstead is defended by a fort at the entrance of the Bay, this fort was called Brinton; we reestablished it. 12 guns of 24 would fire on the vessels trying to enter.

The mortars placed in the channel would fire on them upon their entrance, and later a little island situated ahead of the channel was armed with 40 guns of 36 taken from the vessels. Those being broadsided along the city, between this little island and another situated at some distance from the harbor and on which there was also artillery. As this roadstead had three entrances formed by 2 islands with the land, of which one is called the right channel, formed by the island of Rhode Island with the continent; the other formed by the island of Conanicut with the continent, and the one in the middle which was the large channel to reach the roadstead. The general fortified only the large channel and the right one, placing there a battery of 8 guns of 18 on the island of R. I. at the most narrow place of the channel, where a landing might be feared, and meanwhile to secure a point of communication with the continent and to be able to bring help without being disturbed.

The Count of Rochambeau did nothing for the left channel, it would have been necessary to establish a camp on the Conanicut Island. His army was not large enough to guard 2 islands, for that one was almost as large as that of R. I.

He made up the deficiency by placing batteries to defend the approaches of the city and of the island by the rear. Besides, the small island of which I spoke, provided with the artillery from the vessels fulfilled perfectly his object, this island was round and the guns could be carried to the place of need.

Newport may be called a large city, but there is nothing beautiful to note; The houses are almost all built of wood, but good looking because of their architecture, they fit very well the need of each individual. The interior is of a delightful cleanliness, as for the exterior, the houses are painted of different colors which make a pleasant variety. As for the furniture, it is not very elaborate, the Americans look only for the necessary, everything





Section of Map of London, showing "Cowe Lane" (at right), as it was when the Williams lived there. The Church Tower near the lower right hand corner is that of St. Sepulchre.

*From Agas' map of London*



SIR EDWARD COKE

through whose influence Roger Williams attended  
the Charter House School.

*Courtesy of Providence Magazine*



is simple, and of a cleanliness to enable anyone to look at himself everywhere. The way of living of the Americans deserves a special mention. Their favorite beverage seems to be tea. They ordinarily have tea from 4 to 5 P. M. The mistress of the house pours it and she gives some to every guest, it is impolite to refuse. Ordinarily this tea is very strong, and only a drop of milk is put in it. They also drink some very light coffee, putting in the little drop of milk already mentioned, to be complete I must add that they also drink chocolate.

They breakfast with coffee, chocolate and toasts on which they spread butter. They also serve cheese, preserved pickles and sometimes fried meat. It must be noted that even rather poor people always drink tea or coffee in the morning, they will sell, I believe, their last shirt to buy some, if they were in want of it. The kind of sugar they use marks generally poverty or richness.

Their dinner is made up of boiled or roasted meat with vegetables cooked in water. They make their sauce themselves in their own plate, they ordinarily put on their plate something of all the dishes placed on the table; there is enough to frighten an ordinary man; the sauce is poured on all that. On the table, one can find melted butter, vinegar, pepper, etc. They use what pleases them.

In general they eat much meat and very little bread, but vegetables take its place. People who are well off, have the table cloth taken off after dinner, then the women retire, Madeira wine is brought<sup>1</sup> One drinks and smokes for a long time. During the meal they pass a bowl filled with grog,<sup>2</sup> cider or beer for those who are thirsty, there are no glasses, it is always this bowl that they present to you when you are visiting. The host never forgets to offer something to drink but he always begins to drink first to your health then your turn comes. About 10

<sup>1</sup>Well-to-do people and especially at private dinners when the women have retired, drink to the health of usages, these are so numerous that it is very difficult to leave without being a little tipsy, by the wine and the noise they make, when they begin to be intoxicated.

<sup>2</sup>Beverage made with rum and water, when they put sugar in it it is called "Tandis" and if they put lemon in it they call it "punch."

o'clock at night they have a light meal.— Americans are tall and well-shaped, but most of them seem to have grown after sickness. The women also have very little color and appear to be in poor health, they are very precocious, they fade early also. A girl of 20 years old, looks like one 30 years old in France. I must say however that I saw nowhere such a beautiful blood. Women as I have already said have very little color, but nothing can be compared with the fineness and whiteness of their skin. Their stature is charming and in general one can say that they are all beautiful, as well for the regularity of their features as for that one can imagine most perfect about beauty in a woman.

It is at dance that one must see them, then they have the colors they naturally lack, and one is struck with admiration. But they are in want on a very important point, they keep an icy air; out of dance they lose much of their charm, they have very little vivacity and humor when you are in their company.<sup>1</sup> If you desire to enjoy yourself, you must make the conversation interesting, animate everything by your French gayety or you will be lost, it is very difficult to do all that, especially when you cannot speak English. However when the young ladies are reassured about our manners, and deign to show themselves to us, we are ravished with admiration. Little by little the houses and stores were opened, some goods although at a very high price were displayed and finally friendship and courtesy took the place of the bad impressions that we had of one another at first.<sup>2</sup> They received us more like brothers than like strangers. We took quarters in the city to the great contentment of the inhabitants, who gave us good lodgings. They took the trouble of teaching us their language, desirous also of learning French.

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<sup>1</sup>However I saw sometimes young people taking pleasure in our little innocent games in which one gives forfeits. They knew these games before our arrival.

<sup>2</sup>The English had made the French odious to Americans by idle remarks against us. They had imagined from their words that we were the most wicked and abominable people of the world. The English had carried their impertinence so far as to say that we were little, stunted, pale, livid, in a word some imitation of men. They had said, that we were living on frogs and snails and a hundred similar foolish things.



Very few in our army had to complain about their lodgings or their hosts. However, one can say, with reason that the character of this nation, is hardly made for society. Much coldness, little suppleness and even frankness among the men, with the exception of a kind of them called "Quakers," of whom I am going to speak.

Newport possesses many churches for the use of different religions, which are all tolerated in this country. The principal church is that of England. A large part of the city and even of the island is inhabited by the Quakers. They are exceedingly solemn men as well in their dress as in their looks. They are very moderate, speak little, even very laconically, they *thee* and *thou* everybody, never take off their large hats, either upon entering or leaving a room. The foundation of their religion consists in fear of God and love for their fellow-men. It enters in their principles to take no interest in war. They dread all sanguinary actions, they refuse to take part in rejoicing, not only to innocent pleasures of society, but even the success of their nation. They do not want any slaves in their society, it is why none of them are served by black slaves. When they have one, they set him free. They are very charitable among themselves. They never take any oath, because they do not believe in the words of men. They also refuse to pay the tithe because they consider the demands made by the clergy as an usurpation, so they have neither priests nor ministers. Nevertheless they are obliged to pay taxes, imposed by congress, for the maintenance of war. Most of them are royalists. Their way of worshipping the Supreme Being, seems very particular, their church is open to everybody. They gather there twice on Sunday, morning and evening. Men and women are separated. One will never see men placed in the pews reserved for women. There reigns a profound silence and all the members seem buried in the deepest thoughts. Everybody is seated, men, women, girls have the right to speak when they feel an inspiration, then the person who finds himself in that condition is easily detected by his different convulsive movements, voice, body, all his limbs are shaken. Then everybody waits for the effects of

the grace of the Holy Ghost and prepares to listen to the discourse which always follows this trembling. It often happens that they leave the church without a word, sometimes their discourse means nothing, or is of very little importance.

This sect is very rigid as I have said before, they seek no other pleasure than conversation and meditation. It is forbidden to sing and dance. The women are very pretty and naturally like pleasures more than the women of other sects (this is not surprising because of the restraint in which they are forced to live). They cannot accustom themselves to such great rigor, especially when they are young and pretty. They do not like their religion. They like it only at the age at which a woman in France begins to be devout. If the men are more sad among the Quakers than in the other sects, on the contrary, one finds among the Quakeresses more gayety and playfulness. They love pleasure, but they are always constrained by fear of displeasing their parents. As they have no minister, they have no ceremony. They marry themselves in the presence of all their parents, relatives and friends. They promise faithfulness, they publish their intention, and sign their contract only to insure the possessions of the two parties for the sake of their children. Their wedding banquets are very sad, one must not speak. You can judge how amusing that can be. In this country one distinguishes two parties called Whigs and Tories. The Whigs are called good Americans. They fight for the freedom of their country. They resisted the unfair laws imposed upon them by England. The Tories are known by the name of Royalists, they remained faithful to the King's party. One can consider the latter in several manners, or better from different points of view. We have been in this country long enough to be able to define and analyze the character of these Tories. Most of them are cruel and cowardly. They have committed countless abominations and betrayed their countrymen, time and time again. Now hesitating to take sides, one could see them waiting for a happy turn of events to decide, and place themselves on the side where they can see hopes of success. Now pretending to be good Americans, they were spies paid by the English govern-



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Courtyard of Charter House School, London, England, where  
Roger Williams received his early education



ment to betray their countrymen. A great number of these wretches decided to take arms against their country, lured by money and the permission given to them by the English of pillaging and ransacking the houses of their fellow-citizens. It is surprising that the fine government of the English should have closed their eyes on the atrocities and abominations of this execrable party. I saw some others who, tied up by their fortune and thankfulness, declared themselves to be of the King's party. They were very few and honest, but their misfortune and hatred that surrounded them could only produce pity due to the unfortunate. Three-fourths of the inhabitants were Tories. During the war one could not travel safely and had to fear these robbers who were almost always unknown. I will give an account of this more particularly in the course of this "Journal." How many misfortunes one must foresee by the division which will arise from the difference of opinion in a country where for the public welfare it would be necessary to have only one way of thinking. It is for the Americans to take a prudent party, if this war becomes favorable for their liberty.

I witnessed some pleasant scenes where Tories and Whigs were together in the balls we gave. We asked indifferently all families and we always noted that a woman Whig refused to dance where a woman Tory was placed and vice versa, men were more politic, but women in this country do not know what it is. It was at such a point that in the first ball the Whigs refused to come, knowing that certain families of Tories were asked. As the number of the latter was very considerable at Newport, especially in women, we were not wanting dancers, but later on, everything became softer and the women consented to dance together and all went well.

In April 1781, The Count of Rochambeau received deputations of savages who came to offer their services to him. These men gave an exhibition of their games, of their dances and the way in which they scalp their enemies.<sup>1</sup> These barbarians are naked and paint their bodies with varied colors. As

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<sup>1</sup>To scalp: is to take off the hair of a man with a knife, they raise the skin all around the head, then they easily take the hair out.

for their natural color, it approaches the red copper, they have a hole in each nostril where they hang some large medals as well as to their ears, several have their ears partially cut and hanging over their shoulders, they also tie to them many play-things of glass. During the severest cold they cover their body only with a woollen blanket. They are always in groups and well armed. They spent four days at Newport.

Rochambeau sent them away loaded with presents. The one who seemed to command and who haranged them was a Canadian who spoke French and who by taste had become their leader. These tribes have, after all, very good qualities, they are infinitely less barbarous than they appear. As a testimony to that, think of the war we had in Canada, then they gave us very good services. During February 1781, the vessels *Eveill  * and *Ardent* were sent from R. I. with some frigates to intercept forces who had left N. Y. to join General Arnold in Virginia.

The *Eveill  *<sup>1</sup> being unable to join the 1st division, but coming within the capes of Chesapeake Bay, met the English vessel *Romulus* of 50 guns, escorting a convoy of 10 transports. The *Eveill  * took all and sent the transports to Philadelphia and kept with her the "ROMULUS" She was armed and added to the fleet commanded by the Commadore Destouches. M. de Ternay had just died of a putrid fever, within 4 days.

One might be interested in knowing who General Arnold was. They used to call him General Washington's right hand. He had served well for America's liberty, he had acquired glory in several occasions.<sup>2</sup> He was a man of common class, but not lacking talents. He was lured by the English in 1780, to deliver them the fort at West Point, of which I will speak later.

Major Andr  , Adjt. General of the English army was sent to N. Y. by Sir Henry Clinton, Commander in Chief of His Bri-

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<sup>1</sup>Commanded by Mr. de Tilly.

<sup>2</sup>For instance—His retreat from Canada after the death of General Montgomery when he took command of the American army. He wanted to continue the works for the siege of Quebec, but the enemy had received help, so he was compelled to raise the siege, in the midst of winter, he made his retreat in the midst of the greatest perils.



tanic Majesty's forces in America, in order to discuss with him the means he would have to use to succeed in his infamous treason. Major André although in disguise was arrested by an American patrol at the very moment of his return to N. Y. Arnold learning of the arrest of André fled to N. Y. As for André he was hanged a few days afterwards in front of the General Washington's camp. The English made Arnold Brigadier General and used his services as such in Virginia. He had all reasons to repent of his infamy. The English officers refused to serve under his orders, they despised him, and he deserved such a treatment. Ashamed of his baseness, he asked to go in England, where he lives today despised, without doubt, and held in abhorrence by everybody. After the expedition of M. de Tilly into Chesapeake Bay the commanders on land and sea held a council of war, where it was decided, that the entire fleet with 1500 French troopers, 2 guns of 12, — 4 of 4 and 2 howitzers, commanded by Baron de Viomenil would go and take possession of Chesapeake Bay, and go down in Virginia and attack Arnold the traitor who was in command of 1200 Englishmen.

The Marquis de LaFayette was going there also with 1500 American troopers, with artillery and war provisions, food and all kinds of supplies.

On March 26th the fleet set sail, but within sight of the Capes they met the enemy's fleet which, contrary to our expectation, was slightly stronger than ours. The fight began, and was very keen, the *Conquerant* one of our vessels was badly treated having to fight 2 enemy's vessels. One of theirs, the *Robust* was put out of order. The enemy was master of the wind, they entered the bay and our fleet seeing no possible gain by resuming the battle returned to Newport, where it entered on April 16th to our great surprise, as one can easily imagine, we could not believe that it was our army. Some time before we had had the visit of General Washington, whom we honored as we would a Marshal of France. General Washington is 5 feet 10 inches tall of beautiful features, his face is fine and modest although cold, it carries an impression of sweetness and affability, his uniform is very simple, without adornment. He

answered our politeness in a perfect manner. Our generals gave feasts and balls, where he danced with everybody indiscriminately. He was esteemed and honored even by his enemies. His justice, his kindness and his courage in the misfortunes he had, being at the head of his army, made him still more cherished and respected by his subordinates.

The confidence that people had in him added still more to the glory he had acquired at various occasions, where he displayed his military talents for the sake of his country. He sacrificed all of his fortune to support the American liberty. Today he enjoys peacefully the results of his works. He was and is still admired by all Europe because of the unselfishness he used in freeing his country. In doing that he gave satisfaction to his heart which inspired him with the burning desire of being useful to his country.

On his arrival the city was beautifully illuminated. He spent 8 days at Newport, during that time, the plans of campaign were made and soon begun.

Then the news was circulated that the French army was going to join that of Americans encamped at White Plains near N. Y. We received orders to send all our belongings to Providence, a city on the continent, and to keep with us only our camping outfit. In fact, on June 10th the order was given to depart on the following day in 2 divisions. They put the troops in small boats which went up the river to Providence. Several of these little boats were stranded, so most of the troops had to pass the night in small boats. Most of the men were without food. It was only on the following day, with the tide's help, that these boats could go up the river.

All troops disembarked on the 12th, and went to camp in front of Providence, where the army remained several days. Providence is rather a pretty city, the suburbs are charming because of the different landscapes. This city seems almost deserted, con-

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Note: M. de Choisy remained at Newport with a detachment of 600 men and 1000 American troopers to guard the King's fleet, then commanded by Mr. de Caras. One company and a quarter of artillery remained there for the batteries' service, these batteries being kept armed because of the fleet.



sequently there is very little business, the houses are like those in Newport, built of wood, but there are no pavements in the streets, the air is pure and healthy. One cannot see anything interesting except a splendid hospital placed in a very good location.

During our sojourn in Providence, a convoy escorted by the *Sagitaire* of 50 guns arrived at Boston. All the vessels after having moored in the roadstead were obliged by a strong wind to put out to sea. Within a few days they were all back, with the exception of the *Stanislas*, a transport of 600 tons which was taken to Halifax. The convoy brought us 2 companies of artillery, some recruits and ammunitions of all kinds.

They sent a detachment of the army from Providence to lead the recruits and to escort the treasure, on their return the date of the departure was set for June 18th.

We marched 4 divisions, each regiment formed 1 division which departed successively one after another. The Lauzun's Legion formed the vanguard. The artillery was also divided into 4 parts which were incorporated in each division, and who had a certain number of carriages following them. As I was in the 1st division I am going to follow its march in this Journal. Here they count by "mile" as in England, 3 miles make a good French league.

On the 18.—15 miles, 24 kilometers.—The army went from Providence to Waterman Tavern, very bad roads, the artillery arrived at 11 P. M. The troops did not march well, which always happens during the first days of route.

On the 19th.—15 miles.—24 kilometers.—From Waterman Tavern to Plainfield, very bad roads, the artillery and its equipments arrived very late. One can see at this place a beautiful position for a camp of 12 or 15 hundred men, it is outside of the village, about one mile and a half coming from Providence.

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We remained 4 days at Hartford, The artillery marched in one column only. We arrived at Providence on November 9th. It is impossible to express the evils we felt to have to camp in a

country where cold was very keen. We were frozen in our tents. When we wanted to fold our tents, we had a hard time, they stood without need of any support, one can judge how cold the weather was. Being in Providence, I had nothing to do to prevent me from going to see my old friends in Newport, I found that city well deserted, but on another hand, some faces were delighted in seeing Frenchmen again. I stayed 3 days in that city with much satisfaction, it is perhaps the only city where the French received so many marks of friendship from Americans. I confess that I left Newport with deep regret<sup>1</sup> but we had to depart for Boston, so I returned to Providence. We left on the 16th leaving the infantry in barracks, 3 miles from Providence. As the squadron of M. de Vaudreuil was not yet ready, we were obliged to put troops in the barracks. The artillery departed first because of the big quantity of things it has to embark.

### Early Life of Roger Williams

The researches of recent years have added considerable data to our knowledge of Roger Williams' early life and ancestry. It has therefore seemed desirable to summarize this information.

Roger Stokes of the borough of St. Albans, in Hertfordshire, mercer, in his will in 1573 left 20 shillings to his cousin, Roger Pemberton, and made his brother-in-law, Robert Pemberton, an overseer of his will and gave him a black gown of the value of eight shillings a yard. *Cousin* in those days means what the word *nephew* means to-day, so that Roger Stokes' nephew, namesake and presumably godson, was Roger Pemberton, son of his sister, Katherine Stokes, who was the wife of Robert Pemberton. This Roger Pemberton of St. Albans died in 1627, leaving a legacy of ten pounds to his nephew and godson, Roger

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<sup>1</sup>It is in Newport that I learned the English language, during the 10 months of our stay there. The regrets I confess here are very natural. I left a charming country, amiable friends, to go in a wild and extremely hot country.— But . . . Such is military life!



Williams. His sister, Alice Pemberton, was baptized Feb. 18, 1564, and married James Williams of London, citizen and merchant tailor. The Williams lived in the parish of St. Sepulchres without Newgate, London, in a dwelling house that they owned in Cow Lane, as the street is still called to this day. It is in that part of London known as Snowhill, without Newgate.

James Williams died in the autumn of 1621, leaving bequests to his wife and four children: Sydrack, Robert, Roger and Katherine, the wife of Ralph Wightman, and also several bequests to charity. Roger was born about 1605, doubtless in the Williams' home on Cow Lane and spent his boyhood playing about London suburbs, within and without Newgate, on Snow Hill and at Smithfield. In 1617 he received a legacy of 20 shillings from Margery Pate, widow, of the parish of St. Sepulchres. This is the earliest contemporary reference to Roger Williams that has yet been found. At this time he was about twelve years old. The records of the Church of St. Sepulchres were burnt, so that there is no record left of the early baptisms in that church.

As a youth in London, Roger Williams took up the study of shorthand and became a skilled stenographer, taking in shorthand sermons and speeches in the Star Chamber. These he would transcribe in long hand and present to Sir Edward Coke, who took such a liking to "so hopeful a youth" that he sent him to Sutton's Hospital, as the Charter House School was then called, to complete his education. This school was not far from the Williams' home.

Morgan Edwards relates that "Sir Edward, one day observing a youth at church taking notes of the sermon, and the people crowding, beckoned to him to come to his pew; and seeing how judiciously he minuted down the striking sentiments of the preacher, was so pleased that he entreated the parents to let him have the lad." Waters suggests that Roger Williams may have obtained access to the Star Chamber through his father's acquaintance with Henry Lyde, but this supposition seems unnecessary when it appears that Williams and Sir Edward Coke attended the same church and became acquainted in that way.

Through the influence of Sir Edward Coke, Roger Williams was elected a scholar of the Charter House School on June 25, 1621, and continued a student there until 1623. On June 29, 1623, he was registered at Pembroke College, Cambridge, receiving an annual "pension" or scholarship of £16 per year from the Charter House School, while at college. He matriculated July 7, 1624, signed the Subscription Book in 1626 and received the degree of B.A. in January 1626/7. He continued a post graduate student for two years, presumably specializing in theology. It is possible that he took up the study of law under Sir Edward Coke, as Edwards states, but it seems more probable that Edwards' statement to that effect was a presumption on his part based on the fact of Coke's interest in Williams.

In 1628, after leaving college, Williams became Chaplain to Sir William Masham at his estate of Otes, in the parish of High Laver, Essex. As far as we know, this was his first office in the ministry. It is of course possible that he may have had a parish for a short time.

At Otes Roger Williams became acquainted with the various members of Lady Masham's family, many of whom were destined to play a great part in the affairs of England in later years. Her mother was Lady Joan Barrington, widow of Sir Francis Barrington and daughter of Sir Henry Cromwell. Two letters from Roger Williams to this lady are extant. Oliver Cromwell, "the Protector," "Ship-Money" John Hampden, immortalized by Gray in his *Elegy*, and Edward Whalley, the regicide, then but promising young men, were Lady Masham's cousins. Whalley's daughter, Frances, later became the wife of William Goffe, the regicide. Lady Masham's brother, Sir Thomas Barrington, and her husband were, a decade and a half later, to sign the famous letter giving Roger Williams free passage through Massachusetts. Sir Thomas' wife, Lady Judith Barrington, had the honor of having Point Judith, Rhode Island, named after her and received a presentation copy of Roger Williams' "Key," which interesting volume is still extant. Joan Althem, nicknamed "Jug," was Lady Masham's daughter by

her first husband and later became the wife of Chief Justice St. John.

Roger Williams thus became acquainted with these young men who were later to shape England's future, and the friendship that he, as a young clergyman, won among these young landed gentry proved of great benefit to the infant colony in its struggle with the imperialistic ideas of its more powerful neighbors.

Among those whom Roger Williams met, while Chaplain at Otes, was Jane Whalley, Lady Masham's charming cousin. Roger became very much interested in her and made frequent visits to Hatfield Priory, where Jane lived under the guardianship of her aunt, Lady Barrington. Interest ripened into love and Jane reciprocated Roger's feelings. The love affair became the talk of the neighborhood gossips and Roger seems to have been requested to cease calling at the Priory. Complying with this request, he sent a letter, which he quaintly calls his "paper deputie," to Lady Barrington, asking her niece's hand in marriage. Lady Barrington replied in plain and unmistakable terms. On May 2, 1629, Roger wrote a second letter to Lady Barrington in which he accepts her irrevocable decision against the marriage. Carpenter suggests that Williams immediately left his living at Otes, but this is not at all certain.

However, it would appear that he soon gave up all thought of Jane and found consolation elsewhere. Jane's cousin, "Jug" Althem, Lady Masham's eldest daughter, had a "maid," or lady in waiting, named Mary Barnard, to whom the disappointed lover was attracted. This friendship rapidly developed into love and their engagement is mentioned in one of Lady Masham's letters written in the autumn of 1629.

Roger Williams and Mary Barnard were married at High Laver, Essex, on Monday, December 15, 1629. Williams is styled "clarke" in the record, a term signifying in those days a clergyman.

When Williams gave up his chaplaincy at Otes, we do not know, but it seems probable that he left it shortly after May, 1629, and doubtless obtained a small parish church somewhere.

■



In his first letter to Lady Barrington, Williams mentions "Many former offers to that New England call, I have since had two several livings preferred to me each of them 100£ per annum;"

. . . .

It is quite likely that he obtained a parish in Lincolnshire, near Boston or Sempringham, for he mentions discussing the prayer book with Master Cotton and Master Hooker while riding "to and from Sempringham." It is possible of course that he held such a parish before going to Otes. Morgan Edwards states that it was through Sir Edward Coke's influence that Roger Williams "got Episcopal orders and a parish." Williams may have obtained a parish near Sempringham either before or after his chaplaincy at Otes, or he may have ridden "to and from Sempringham" on but one occasion, and not several times, as most writers have interpreted the meaning of this passage.

Roger Williams, accompanied by his wife, went from London or some place in eastern England to Bristol late in the year 1630. Williams wrote of this journey, "My much honored friend, that man of honor and wisdom and piety, your dear father [Sir Edward Coke] was often pleased to call me his son: and truly it was as bitter as death to me when Bishop Laud pursued me out of this land, and my conscience was persuaded against the national church and ceremonies and bishops, beyond the conscience of your dear father. I say it was as bitter as death to me, when I rode Windsorway, to take ship at Bristow and saw Stoke House, where the blessed man was, and I durst not acquaint him with my conscience and my flight."

The Williams embarked at Bristol on the ship *Lyon*, Capt. Pierce, which sailed on Dec. 1, 1630, and after a stormy voyage of 65 days anchored at Nantasket in Boston Harbor on Feb. 5, 1630/1.

Hubbard mentions Williams as "of good account in England for a godly and zealous preacher." Williams is one of the few persons whose arrival in New England, Governor Winthrop considered of enough importance to mention in his diary.

Jane Whalley, also seems to have recovered from her love affair, for she married Rev. William Hooke, and came to New

England with him. He was pastor at Taunton, Massachusetts, from 1639 to 1644.

### Note

The preceding account is a summary of what is known of the early life of Roger Williams, previous to his arrival in New England. It is drawn from the various sources listed below.

Manuscript abstracts of wills given to R. I. H. S. by G. Andrews Moriarty, Jr.

Manuscript transcripts of Williams vs. Williams, suit in Chancery, 1644, given to R. I. H. S. by Walter F. Angell, cf. Rider's "Book Notes" XXIX, pp. 81 and 89, XXX, pp. 65 and 75.

Morgan Edwards' manuscript, "History of the Baptists," in R. I. H. S. Library. Printed in R. I. H. S. Coll. VI, p. 302.

Letters of Roger Williams and Lady Masham. Photostats in R. I. H. S. Library. Printed in N. E. H. & G. R. XLIII, p. 315; Edmund J. Carpenter's "Roger Williams," and R. I. H. S. Coll. XI, p. 122.

Narragansett Club Publications, especially IV, p. 65 and VI, p. 239.

R. I. H. S. Coll. XIII, p. 103, and XV, p. 64.

N. E. H. & G. R. XLV, p. 70, and LIII, p. 63.

Oscar Straus' "Roger Williams."

Henry F. Waters' "Genealogical Gleanings in England."



Seal used by Roger Williams

## List of Vessels Paying Fort Tax at Newport in 1744 and 1745

The General Assembly of Rhode Island in January, 1704, considering the cost to the colony of the building and upkeep of the fort recently erected on Fort Island (Goat Island) in Newport Harbor, voted to assess 12 pence per ton, or one pound of powder per ton, on each vessel of over 10 tons that entered the port of Newport, excepting vessels wholly owned in the colony.

This act was modified in October, 1732, when the Assembly reduced the tax to 6 pence or one-sixth pound of powder per ton, excepted from its provisions fishing vessels, and permitted coasters to pay only one assessment per year. Sometime before 1744 the tax was again changed, vessels from foreign ports being assessed 6 pence per ton, and coastwise vessels 3 pence per ton, coasters being taxed for each voyage separately instead of merely once a year. The list of vessels paying this tax for the fiscal year June, 1744, to May, 1745, is given below.

### VESSELS FROM FOREIGN PORTS ENTERED AT NEWPORT

Date		Master	Rig and Name	Tons
1744				
June	20	Wm. Brown	Sloop Griffin	25
	26	Thos. Wilkinson	Sloop Victory	40
	30	Obadh Brown	Schooner Ranger	60
July	5	John Collins	Snow Phoenix	90
	18	Wm. Shearman	Schooner Non Paril	30
	23	James Cahoon	Sloop Tryall	25
	"	Wm. Hookey	Sloop Lyon	50
	"	Zaban Potter	BrigaSea Flower	40
	"	Henry Taggart	Sloop Recruit	20
	26	Wm Stoddard	Sloop Beaver	35
Aug.	"	Benja Nichols	Briga Marygold	45
	3	John Joy	" Little Joseph	60
	13	Jno Bristow	" Phoenix	50
	17	John Gibbs	Sloop Endeavour	25
	21	Wm Cooke	Sloop Success	40



## VESSELS PAYING FORT TAX AT NEWPORT

85

		Master	Rig and Name	Tons
Aug.	28	Henry Harramond	Schooner Good Intent	25
	29	George Parris	Sloop Luckey Nancey	30
Sept.	3	Peter Gibbs	Sloop Dove	35
	"	Nathn Saltonstall	Sloop Black Joak	15
	"	Edwd Carleton	Sloop Greyhound	34
	5	Dudley Hilton	Sloop Olivebranch	30
Oct.	9	Charles Bardin	Briga Victory	60
	15	Jno Goddard	Sloop Dove	40
	"	Josh Blevin	Sloop Mary	20
	24	Jona Stanton	Sloop Phoenix	40
	27	Thos. Borden	Schooner Geraldus	40
Oct.	31	Caleb Godfrey	Sloop Abigail	35
Nov.	8	John Cockram	Schooner Ann	50
	"	Randal Eldred	Schooner Rover	35
	10	Thos Wilcocks	Brigg Sea Flower	40
	26	Jno Robinson	Snow Jolly Batchelor	30
	29	Francis Pope	Briga Little Betty	20
	"	Laban Potter	Schooner Pamela	30
	30	Anthony Field	" Mayflower	40
Decemr	6	John Bragg	Sloop Seaflower	50
	26	John Bennett	Sloop Dove	30
Janry	5	Danll Robins	Schooner Diamond	50
	7	Esek Hopkins	Schooner Ranger	60
	"	Dudley Hilton	Sloop Olivebranch	30
	11	Thos Oliver	Brigga Industry	50
Febry	5	Jona Rogers	Brigga Neptune	50
1745				
March	18	Resolvd Waterman	Sloop Rotterdam	20
	"	David Conyers	Sloop March	20
	26	Pollipus Hamond	Brig Success	50
	27	Jams Holmes	" Endeavour	50
	28	Wm Richards	" Providence	50
	30	Wm Martin	Sloop Endeavour	25
April	15	Silas Cooke	Schooner Ranger	35
	18	Wm Shearman	" Non Paril	30
	"	Benja James	Sloop Black Prince	30
	29	Jams Tucker	Sloop Ranger	40
May	2	Ebenzr Clark	Sloop Sarah	40
	4	Charles Feild	Sloop Victory	25

## COASTERS ENTERED AT NEWPORT

Date		Master	Rig and Name	Tons
1744				
June	20	Ebenzr Hill	Sloop Molly	12
	21	Archibald Smith	" Abram & Eliza	35
	22	Abner Coffin	" Molly	45
	23	John Morris	" Fox	5
	25	Isaac Bush	" Sea Flower	4
	"	Josh Compton	" Mary	15
	26	Saml Grover	" Dolphin	16
	27	Aaron Van Cleave	" Tiverton	35
	28	Lawrance Anderson	Schooner Deborah	45
	30	Peter Harris	Sloop Norwick	18
July	2	Howard Henderson	" Abigail	70
	4	Phineas Bardwin	Schooner Fancy	10
	"	David Childs	Sloop Speedwell	10
	"	Samll Smith	" Lucretia	30
	10	John Taylor	" Phebe	16
	"	Mathias Hull	" Dolphin	16
	"	Soloman Davis	" Charmg Betty	12
	11	Clother Peirce	Schooner Swansey	40
	"	Jona Smith	Sloop Cape May	20
	12	Samll Barker	" Eliza	10
	16	Charles Whitefield	" Ranger	30
	"	Paul Hartford	" 3 Brothers	40
	17	Israel Higgins	" Speedwell	15
	18	Jere Eddy	" Sarah & Esther	30
	"	Nicholas Cook	" Dolphin	30
	19	Christr Bennett	" Ranger	26
	"	Mosses de St. Croix	" Susannah	25
	23	Archibald Smith	" Abram & Eliza	35
July	26	John Sadler	Sloop Abigail	15
	28	Thos. Millet Junr	" Hannah	50
	31	John Willard	" Sea Flower	15
	"	Josiah Parsons	" Molly	10
Aug.	1	Gabriel Wayne	Brigga Jno & Wm.	80
	3	Nathan Simmons	Sloop Rebecca	
	"	Richd Anthony	" Swan	40
	6	Joshua Doane	Schooner Mary & Ruth	18
	"	Lewis Guest	" Brunswick Swallow	20
	13	Thos Roberts	Sloop Success	40
	21	Nathan Winchester	" Swallow	5

## VESSELS PAYING FORT TAX AT NEWPORT

87

		Master	Rig and Name	Tons
Aug.	21	John Willard	Sloop Sea Flower	15
	24	John Story	" Ranger	6
	25	John Clark	" John	10
	27	Michael Griswold	" Susannah	20
	28	Benja L'hommediere	" Endeavour	30
		John Hull	" Rainbow	10
		Andrew Langworthy	" Abigail	15
Sept.	3	Josh Higgins	" Dove	20
		Lewis Guest	Schooner Brunk Swallow	20
		Mathias Hull	Sloop Dolphin	16
	7	Joshua Almy	" Susannah	15
		Wm Griffin	" Good Intent	20
	13	Peleg Shearman	" Tryall	20
	14	Howard Henderson	" Abigail	70
	18	Daniel Servate	" "	15
		Henry Dunban	" Rotterdam	20
	26	Jacobus Keirsted	" Thos. & John	25
		Wm Bagly	" Susannah	35
	27	Ebenzr Hull	Sloop Molly	12
		Benja Hatch	Schooner Mary & Ruth	18
	29	Samuel Barker	Sloop Eliza	10
Oct.	1	Thos Disbrow	" Charmg Molly	50
	5	Joshua Cook	" Dolphin	20
	8	John Willard	" Sea Flower	15
	9	Lewis Guest	Schooner B. Swallow	20
	12	Bailey Evans	Sloop Eliza	25
	15	Benja Nichols	" Ranger	20
		Joshua Bangs	Schooner Mary	10
		Joseph Cox	" Tryall	20
	22	Mosses Godfrey	" Dove	15
	24	Edmund Ward	Sloop Sea Flower	40
		Wm Crillin	" Good Intent	20
		Mathias Hull	" Dolphin	16
	26	Thos Buttler	" Falmouth	25
		John Clark	" John	10
	29	Soloman Davis	" Charmg Mary	12
	30	Walter Simonton	" Susannah	50
Nov.	1	Samll Barker	" Eliza	10
	2	Andrew Langworthy	" Susannah	15
	7	Huxford Merchant	" Greyhound	30
		Howard Henderson	" Abigail	70
	8	Crawford Conner	" Little Molly	20
	10	Lewis Guest	Schooner Brunk Swallow	20
	12	George Cortis	Sloop Swan	30



		Master	Rig and Name	Tons
Nov.	14	Thos Barnes	Sloop Fire Ball	20
	"	Samll Milles	" 3 Friends	40
	19	Mosses Godfrey	Schooner Dove	15
	23	Benja Nichols	Sloop Radner Gally	10
	24	Peleg Shearman	" Tryall	20
	26	Samll Marshall	" Success	26
	"	Wm Crillin	" Good Intent	20
	27	John Perry	" Rainger	20
	30	Simeon Newton	" Victory	16
Dec.	3	Nicholas Canner	" Carthegena	20
	"	Paul Hartford	" 3 Friends	40
	5	Nathl Chapman	" Virgin	30
	7	Uriah Hosmere	" Dolphin	15
	14	Mosses Peirce	" Molly	18
	15	Thos. Colwell	" Patience	12
	17	Saml Bennett	" Beaver	33
	21	Jeremiah Eddy	" Sarah & Esther	30
	26	Ephriam Peirce	" Mary & Eliza	30
	31	James Jordan	Schooner Breeze	25
Janry	3	Wm Brown	Sloop Griffin	30
	5	Samll Squire	" Lilly	30
	14	James Craig	" Diamond	30
	21	Simeon Newton	" Victory	16
	28	Mosses Peirce	" Molly	18
	"	Wm Warner	" Molly	20
Febry	9	Archelaus Hammond	" Tryall	30
	11	Wm Guest	Schooner B. Swallow	20
March	5	John Brown	Sloop Charmg Mary	12
	"	Peregrine Van Emburgh	" Patience	12
	12	John Rouse	Sloop Sarah	15
	"	George Parris	" Lucky Nancy	30
	18	John Holden	" Charmg Sally	15
	"	Thos Wright	Schooner Mary	90
	21	John Burroughs	Sloop Swan	5
	"	James Jones	" Fickle Town	10
1745				
	25	Robert Durfey	" Endeavour	20
	"	Samuel Marshall	" Success	26
	"	Edward Rooke	" Rachel	13
	26	Samll Tillinghast	Brigga Hellen	30
	28	John Brooks	Sloop Rainger	20
April	1	Simeon Luther	" Paitient Job	10
	"	Wm Warner	" Mary	20
	"	Wm Guest	Schooner B. Swallow	20



Interior of Charter House School, London, England

*Courtesy of Providence Magazine*



CHURCH OF ST. SEPULCHRE, LONDON

Roger Williams' parents were members of this parish



PEMBROKE COLLEGE

Cambridge, England, where Roger Williams went to college



Church at High Laver, Essex, England where Roger Williams and  
Mary Barnard were married



# A LEAF FROM A LOST DIARY

89

	Master	Rig and Name	Tons
Apr. 3	Phoenias Baldwin	Schooner Fancy	10
15	Mosses Peirce	Sloop Molly	18
17	John Case	" Promis & Willm	12
19	John Clark	" John	10
20	James Jordan	Schooner Breeze	25
"	Benja Ingraham	Sloop Dove	30
22	John Hull	" Rainbow	10
23	Peleg Shearman	" Tryall	20
25	Bailey Evans	" Eliza	25
27	Howard Henderson	" Success	30
May 2	Morris Hobbs	" Abram & Eliza	35
4	Peter Harris	" Dove	15
7	Joseph Fancher	" Good Intent	16

(From original manuscript in Rhode Island State Archives.)

## A Leaf from A Lost Diary

April, 1743:—

1. Wind about E. N. E. and snows, this morning, Began last night in ye night. It was about 2 or 3 Inches thick this morning, on ye ground But Goes away fast, ye ground being wett.—Moderate weather ye—blows but very moderately.

2nd. Wind Westerly and Northerly Dark Thick & snow. In ye forenoon Eden Clarke arrived from No Carolina.

3d. Wind Westerly and got to S. W. It was a fine morning But ye afternoon Began to look like mire Dirt.

4th. Wind Northerly and Dark weather John Clarke arrived from Maryland & Thomas Eldred from St. Eustius, ye wind southerly afternoon.

5. Wind N N W and N W and a cool morning for ye season of ye year It froze last night. It has been a very cold day for ye season.

6. Wind N W & W N W In ye morning a cold for ye season froze Last night Jo Powers Sailed for some of ye wine<sup>1</sup> Islands.

7. Wind East & Blew exceeding hard storm It got Round

<sup>1</sup>Windward Islands.

to N W In ye afternoon & Clear. The storm began to abate about 7 Clock In ye morning.

8. Wind West S West In ye morning Early and—got to W N W.

9. Wind Southerly a Small Breeze and—weather Wm. Almy and Vars sailed came Back again.

10. Wind S. W. and Blew a fresh Breeze.

11. Wind S W and blew a fresh Breeze several yorkers arrived.

12. Wind South & Blew hard & Rained all Day Cook Jr Jona Nichols schooner arrived from Guadaloupe Charles Tillinghast died suddenly.

13. Wind Northerly & Vars sailed. In ye afternoon wind Southerly.

14. Wind N W, Vernon's ship sailed for Carolina a Snow arrived from Lisbon of James Griffins of Boston who entered here. Wilkinsons Schooner<sup>1</sup> from Privateering from Providence Last Nathan Bull came Passenger Left His Brign a Sloop<sup>2</sup> arrived a Prize of Cap Allen.

15. Wind S W. a Good fresh Breeze Gallowee & a Bermudian sloop arrived went under Cononicut & several Coasters arrived Had an acc't. of Ob'h. Browns sloop arriving at Nantaskett.

16. Wind S W. In ye morning & about 11 Clock Got to W N W & N W & Looks squally But cleared away again and was pleas't Weather Jacob Long sailed for So. Carolina.

(Reprinted from Newport Mercury, April 5, 1851.)

## Newport Town House Attached for Debt

On September 5, 1643, Jeremy Clarke brought action against the Town of Newport for arrears of money due to him. The case was heard by the Aquidneck Quarter Court then sitting at Portsmouth and an attachment was granted and served upon the

<sup>1</sup>Fame.

<sup>2</sup>San José.

"Publick house of the sd Towne" of Newport, twenty pounds damage being allowed "if the Towne satisfie not by next Court then judgment to be granted." The next Court was held on Dec. 3, 1643, and as there is no mention of this case in the records of that Court, it would seem probable that the Town of Newport paid the debt before December. (Cf. Doc. Hist. of R. I. vol. 2.)

### Will of John Williams, 1768

(Contributed by Mr. G. A. Taylor of Boston.)

"The Probate of the Will of John Williams of Newport, in Rhode Island and Admion granted thereon to the Wife Executrix and his son Executr in the said Will named.

"Sir Edmund Andros"-etc. "To all to whom this shall come as may concern greeting"

"Know ye that in the Five and Twentieth day of October—One thousand six hundred eighty seven before me Francis Brinley Esq Judge of the Inferiour Court of Comon Pleas for Rhode Island etc. and Coll Peleg Sanford and Caleb Carr Esq. two of his Maties Justices of the Peace in Newport in the Island aforesaid within the Dominion aforesaid the Will of John Williams, late of Newport "etc. "Administracion "etc," comitted into his wife the Extrix and his son," and "truly to administer the same and to make," etc" "Inventory"—etc. Dated the Two and twentieth day of June Ann Dni: One thousand Six hundred Eighty Eight.

"In the Name of God Amen I John Williams of Newport in Rhode Island being very weak in body," etc.

"Imprimis - - - My Will is that - - - my Wife shall enjoy the benefit of my whole estate during her Widdowhood and if she marry to have her Thirds—"

"Item—I give to my son Nathaniel as his Portion my house and Lands at Boston and Fort Island at Block Island and my Warehouse at Block Island."

"Item—I give to my Daughter Mary all my land at Assabath



River according to a Division made between my Brother in Law Mr. Zachariah Whitman of Hull and to be as her portion."

"Item—I give and bequeath to my Son Palsgrove my Daughter Ann and my Daughter Elizabeth my Daughter Anabella and the 'expected child' all the rest of my Estate both p'sonal and real to be equally divided amongst them."

"Item—my mind and Will is that the Church Mr. Hiscox belongs to, enjoy"—"the meeting house as long as my heirs enjoy the ground—"

"Lastly I make my beloved Wife my Executrix and my son Nathaniel when he comes of Age Executr." "Also I make my beloved Friend Mr. Robert Gattridge my Executr in trust till my Son come of Age and desire my brother Nathaniel Williams of Boston and Mr. Thomas Ward of Rhode Island to be my Overseers to see my Will performed"—etc.

"hand and seal this Eighteenth day of April One thousand six hundred Eighty seven—" etc.

"signed JOHN WILLIAMS and sealed

"signed and sealed in prsence of WILLIAM HISCOX, CHRISTOPHER HARGEL"

"As and Addition to my Will my mind and Will is that Hanne and Pegge serve their Mistris eight year a piece and then be free and that Zippera serve my Daughter Anna till she is Thirty year old and then she to be free Dated Eighteenth April signed JNO. WILLIAMS—prsence of CHRISTOPHER HARGEL WILLIAM HISCOX—"

"Examined

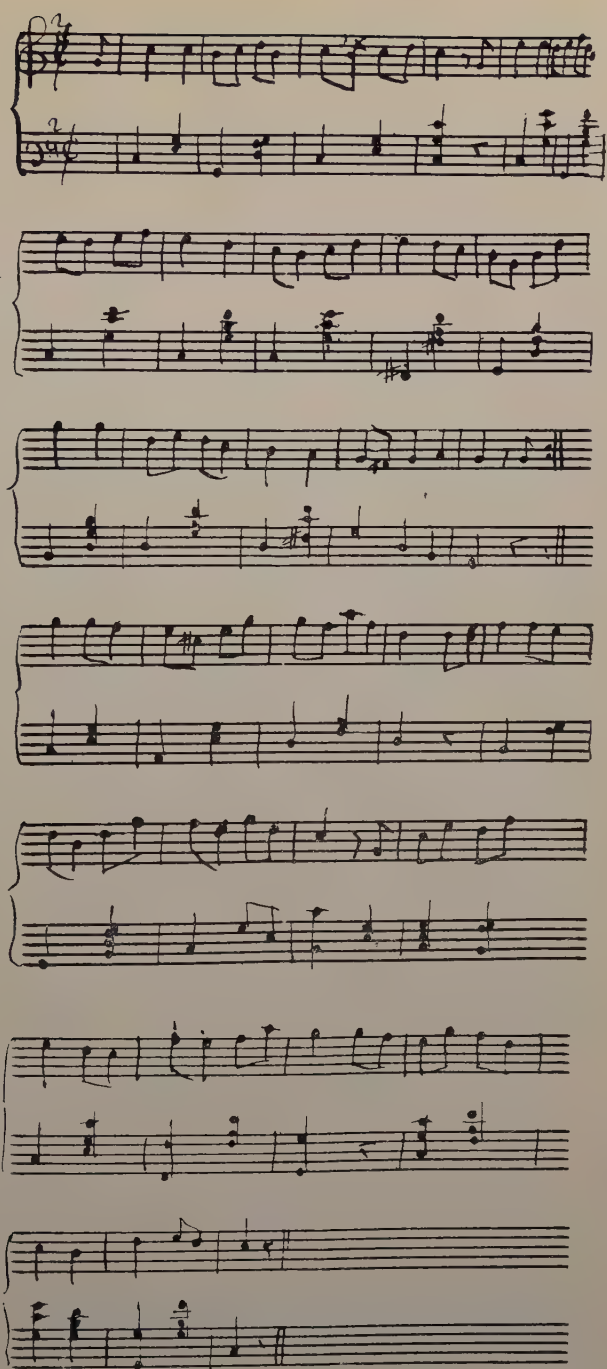
per JOHN WEST

D. Sery."

"William Hiscox and Christopher Hargel both of Newport in Rhode Island appeared before me Francis Brinley Esq Judge of the Inferiour Court of Comon Pleas for Rhode Island etc and Lt Coll Peleg Sandford and Caleb Carr Esq two of his Maties Justices of the Peace the 25th day of October 1687 in Newport aforesaid" etc.

FRANCIS BRINLEY

THOMAS WARD Clerke"



THE RHODE ISLAND MARCH  
as played by the Rhode Island Regiments  
during the Revolution

*From original in the library of  
Col. George L. Shepley*



*Barque Orphan of Providence Capt. John Edmonds, entering the port of Newcastle Dec 20<sup>th</sup> 1811*

The barque Orphan of Providence, Captain John Edmonds (see page 20)

*From a painting in the possession of Mrs. John G. Edmonds*



The Inventory of John Williams's Estate  
[in part]

May 6th 1687

"1 Silver Tankard & 2 Cups, one Watch £20-10-0  
New England 3£-2/8—Spanish money 3-8/9  
4 yds  $\frac{3}{4}$  Plush 2 1/8, 4 Neckclothes 6/8, silk 2 lb 5/8  
17 Small Looking glasses 7/8, 5 pcs of Taffeta Rib £2  
6 Wrought Chaires, 2 wrought stools 7-10, 1 Cupboard 1 lb  
2 pair of Callico window curtains 7 lb, 4 pr Courte sheets £1-10  
"10 Pewter dishes 2 lb, 2 doz plates £1, 2 candlesticks 5/8,  
1 flagon 3/8  
2 gold rings small 11s—etc  
"A pair of Stilliards sheep sheers and Parrot Cage=1-0-0  
2 Guns 2 lb, 2 Swords & belt 15/8, etc.  
"about 55 books great and small £6, a baskit 5s, 3 Saddles, 3  
bridles £1-10s  
"Lumber 10s, 3 Indians 16 lb=16-10-0  
70 Sheep @ 5 s each 17-10-0  
1 Cow 2 lb=5s, 2 horses 5 lb  
A cart & Geers 1-0-0  
5/16 of ye Brigandine Anna & Mary £90-0-0  
[Total] £273-17-4

[signed] JOHN WOODMAN  
WILLIAM HISCOX

At—Block Island als Newshorum  
In Keeping of Josias Heling 20 Sheep  
In Keeping of Nathan Niles 20 Sheep  
In Keeping of John Mott 20 Sheep  
In Keeping of the executr of Tho Mitchel 20 Sheep  
Running on said Island 20 Sheep  
being in all 100 Sheep apprized at £17-10-0  
"4 Horses now brought to Newport at 11-00-0  
A mare 3-00-0  
A List of Debts out standing at Block 85-13-2  
Island  
A Cow at Prudence 2-00-0

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Total 393-00-6

JOHN WOODMAN  
WILLIAM HISCOX

New Shorum Sept 1687

An Inventory of an Estate Mr. John Williams of Newport was possessed off at New Shorum at his decease is as followeth—

	£	s	d
Due from Edward Ball	7-	8-	7
Due from John Daudg	6-	8-	0
Simon Pulling		19-	11
John Mott	9-	0-	0
Nathaniel Winslow	4-	0-	0
George Langley	1-	9-	5
Nathaniel Mott	5-	0-	0
John Nils	1-	10-	0
Daniel Tosh	3-	10-	0
John Gunnel		15-	9
Tristram Dauge		18-	2
John Acres		3-	10- 0
T. Dages bills		33-	0- 0
The Ware-house & fort is land apprizd by			
Nathaniel Nils Edward Bull at	£10-	-	
To one hundred sheep in Mr. Guttrigs custody	25-	-	
To one Mare—Mr. Guttridge custody	3-	-	
To a piece of Stuff at	1-	10-	0
			<hr/>
			117-10-10

Mr. Robert Guttridge one of the executr to the Estate of the late Mr. John Williams deceased prsonally appeared before me and attested the above written to be a true accompt according to the best of his Knowledg.

Teken before me

SIMON RAYE Justic of peace

Debts which cannot be expected any benefit off

Due from William Harris	£12-6-0
Due from James Cornesh	6-17-0
	<hr/>
	19-3-0
	<hr/>
To 4 l of Powder	0-6-0

(Suffolk County Probate No. 1605.)

## Notes

The following persons have been elected to membership in the Society:

Mr. James H. Arthur  
Mr. Charles A. Calder  
Gov. William S. Flynn  
Mr. Arthur Duncan Greene  
Miss Eliza Taft Newton  
Mr. George A. Smith

Mr. E. E. Bowen of Boise, Idaho, has presented to the Society a very elaborate and extensive genealogical chart of his ancestors, many of whom lived in Rhode Island.

The History and Genealogy of the Banks Family in America has been given to the Society by Mrs. Frederick E. Shaw.

The Gowdy Genealogy is a gift from Hon. Mahlon W. Gowdy.

The Sherman Genealogy is a gift from Mr. Charles Pomeroy Sherman.

The manuscript Transfer Book of the Rawson Fountain Society has been deposited with the Society.

The manuscript record book belonging to Joseph Greene, former leader of the American Brass Band, has been given to the Society by the estate of Liberty B. Greene.

Col. H. Irving King has presented to the Society the cane formerly owned by Randall Holden, one of the founders of Warwick. The cane is marked R. H.

A large oil portrait of Thomas W. Dorr has been given by Mrs. Benjamin Harris and Mr. Louis P. Tower.

The January *Bulletin* of the Newport Historical Society contains an article on the Banister family of Newport and the April *Bulletin* has an article on the Coddington Commission of 1651, together with a picture of the document, and also a paper on the Log of the *Lawrence*, 1813. A portrait of Thomas Goddard of Newport has been given to the Newport Historical Society.



## The Mythical Isaac Sweet

The origin of the mythical Isaac Sweet, alleged progenitor of the family of Sweet of Rhode Island, is doubtless due to a misreading of an entry in the early court records.

Savage in his *Genealogical Dictionary*, in 1862, wrote in regard to James Sweet "call[ed] s. of Isaac, wh. prob. d. in Eng.," and in regard to John Sweet, "br. of James, prob. elder, perhaps brot. from Eng. by his mo. Mary, wid. of Isaac Sweet". James and John Sweet were the sons of John Sweet senior and Mary, his wife.

The following entry is in the records of the Court held at Portsmouth, R. I., on March 7, 1642-3, "An ac of the case comc by Esek Holyman agst Isaac Allerton in acon of 2 years dependance upon Arreages of a purchase between the sd *Isaac and Mary Sweet* the wife of the sd Ezekiel the rest 4 Li 1 s a barr of mackrell find for the pl: damages 7 Li 1s: costs of the Court 24 s etc." The *Isaac*, it will be noted, refers to Isaac Allerton, not to an Isaac Sweet.

In justice to Savage, it should be said that he doubtless never saw this entry, the misinterpretation being that of some earlier genealogist. Savage's wording indeed shows that he copied these Sweet items from the work of others.

FORM OF LEGACY

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*“I give and bequeath to the Rhode Island  
Historical Society the sum of .....  
dollars.”*

